

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOVIET-CUBAN ECONOMIC PLAN COORDINATION 1976-1980

REF: MOSCOW 13494

1. SEPTEMBER 23 TASS COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER VESTNIK PROVIDES
INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTING PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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COORDINATION OF SOVIET-CUBAN ECONOMIC PLANS FOR 1976-80

REPORTED REFTEL.

2. ACCORDING TO VESTNIK PLAN COORDINATION WILL BE FIRST IN HISTORY OF SOVIET-CUBAN RELATIONS. UNDER IT, USSR WILL EXTEND AID TO CUBA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, SUGAR INDUSTRY, OIL REFINING, LIGHT INDUSTRIES, FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALLURGY AND TRANSPORT. CUBA WILL INCREASE ITS IMPORTS OF SOVIET CRUDE OIL AND REFINED PRODUCTS AND WILL RECEIVE SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY. CUBA WILL ALSO INCREASE DELIVERIES OF RAW SUGAR AND NICKEL ORE TO THE USSR.

3. TOTAL SOVIET-CUBAN BILATERAL TRADE IS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE DURING THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

4. COMMENT - EMBASSY BELIEVES REPORTED PLANS FOR INCREASED CUBAN IMPORTS OF SOVIET OIL DO NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT USSR WILL TRY TO SWITCH SOME CUBAN PURCHASES TO MEXICO OR VENEZUELA, POSSIBLY THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS ORGANIZED UNDER MEXICO'S NEW AGREEMENT WITH CEMA.
MATLOCK

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